

REMARKS

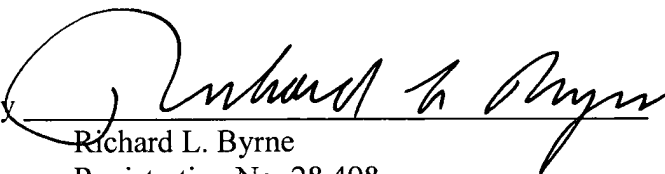
Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are pending in this application. Only claim 1 has been amended. Based upon the Applicant's amendments of October 14, 2005, the Examiner has required a restriction between (I) Claims 1-4 and 6-8; and (II) Claims 9-20. The Examiner has allowed claims 9-20 and has asserted that claims 1-4 and 6-8 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

The Applicant wishes to remove the withdrawal status of these claims by amending independent claim 1 to recite an element for sensing weight, so as to overcome the claim objection set forth in the Office Action dated June 14, 2005. Specifically, the Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to require that a sensor be mounted to the support element to measure strain of the support element (similar to a limitation of allowed claim 9).

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider this amendment to place independent claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 6-8 depending therefrom in condition for allowance. The Applicant also kindly asks that the allowance of claims 9-20 be maintained. The Applicant respectfully requests that the application pass to issue in due course if the Examiner is amenable to the aforementioned amendment. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative indicated below by telephone if he has comments or suggestions regarding the amendment to independent claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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